

94-8-341-63 Laboratory File



Full cut #850R - Half cut #8502R - Third cut #8503R - Fifth cut #8505R

JH:KW

January 30, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM.

Reference is made to the anonymous letter beginning, "Editor of the St. Louis, Post Dispatch, Dear Sir:- This letter is in no way construed", and signed "Anonymous", and to an envelope marked "(Personal)" and addressed "J. Edgar Hoover, Department of Secret Service Washington D.C.", which were received in the Division Laboratory January 25, 1935.

These two specimens have been examined in the Division Laboratory for latent fingerprints and two fragmentary latent impressions have been found on the outside of the envelope.

These latent fingerprints, despite their fragmentary nature, may prove to be of value for comparison purposes.

Photographic copies of the letter and envelope are attached hereto.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey.

1 copy

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 3026

Laboratory Report

Case: Anonymous letter sent to J. Edgar Hoover  
addressed to the Editor of the St. Louis,  
Post Dispatch.

Number:

b6  
b7C

Specimens: A. One extortion letter written on both sides of one sheet of white  
paper, probably "ditto" work, beginning "Editor of the St. Louis, Post Dispatch,  
Dear Sir:- This letter is in no way construed" and signed "Anonymous".

B. One envelope addressed to J. Edgar Hoover with notation "(Personal)"  
written in longhand and postmarked Saint Louis, Mo., Jan 18, 1935, 12:30 PM.

Examination requested by: Director's office.

Date received: January 25, 1935

Examination requested: Handwriting - typewriting - fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by:

Letter and envelope delivered to [redacted] 1-28-35  
Two fragmentary latent fingerprints found on outside of  
letter.  
Dictated 1-29-35.

Mem to Mr. Tamm  
1/30  
EPA

One Inch  
Division of Investigation  
U. S. Dept. of Justice  
Case # 3026



J. Edgar Hoover,  
Dept. of Secret Service

Washington, D. C.

(Personal)



J. Edgar Hoover,  
Dept. of Secret Service

Washington, D.C.

(Personal)

Lester  
3076



Jan. 8th, 1935.  
St. Louis, Mo.

Editor of the St. Louis, Post Dispatch,

Dear Sir:-

This letter is in no way construed to place roses of compliments on the Editor's Staff of the St. Louis Post Dispatch. It is on the contrary a letter of criticism long over-due.

My observations over all lines of business, regardless of what branch is represented, proves without doubt that the word "ethics" has been removed, and I don't mean to omit the St. Louis Dispatch, or-- the St. Louis, Star Times.

My understanding (although limited) of the duties of reporters, is to get the news, such as a man biting a dog, etc., but it is time--- that a board of censorship be appointed to pass on any of the blundering news that are published, thwarting the conscientiousness of the law enforcing agents.

Let us start in with your newspaper as a whole. The Friday edition consists generally of about 80 pages. This amount of newspaper, or rubbish is very beneficial where a furnace fire is started on cold mornings, or for spreading out over the ground on picnics. Starting with the first page, there are never less than a dozen mis-spelled words throughout the paper. Quotation marks, dollar signs, fractions, etc., frequently are found making up the structure of a word. In some instances the improper heading is inserted over a news item which has no bearing. Not infrequently are apologies made in your paper retracting statements made where articles were printed without foundation in earlier editions.

Could this be the result of your haste in putting your paper on the street ahead of your competitor, or to the slipshod attitude taken by your proof-readers, or type-setters? Your reporters no doubt always on the alert have 'at the sense to realize their meddlesome and wayward activities. I am making no bones in saying that their attitude is below that of a buzzard waiting for a dying animal to take a last breath.

The results of your efforts therefore, not to be out done by your competitor, who likewise has reporters, editors, proof-readers, type-setters, etc., bungling and retarding the activities of our police, whose duties could, and would be better handled without any unsolicited assistance of your newspapers.

Could there be any connection between yourselves and the criminals that are tipped off by your so called news items? On December 20th 1934, as your story reads, two sets of auto tags were reported missing from a shipment made to the State License Office in St. Louis from the penitentiary at Jefferson City. I am sure you missed an opportunity of running an "Extra" as this would fall in line with sensational news, which seems to have been adopted as your policy.

If the police have been able to keep this a secret from Dec. 20th to Jan. 4th, is there one reason in a thousand that your paper should make sensational news of it? Give the law enforcing bodies a break, and they can bring results. Assuming that two sets were stolen out of the thousand sets in a series, and the remaining sets left unsold for the present, would it not have been easier to inform each and every officer of the law to be on the alert for two sets of plates, the beginning numerals -335- than to give the criminals a tip-off to destroy these two sets?

Your intelligence in matters of this kind, and they are numerous, makes it necessary to have a system similar to the one used by the government during the world war, when every communication was subject to rigid censorship. Government Legislation (if necessary) should be enacted to this effect.

Yours truly,

*Anonymous*

P.S. Am signing this letter Anonymous for reasons best known to myself, however I am sending copies to the Chief of Police of St. Louis, one to the Board of Alderman, one to the Better Business Bureau, one to the Department of Government Agents headed by J. Edgar Hoover, and others as I see fit, as I know you would not print a letter like this.